Repeal of Urban Land Ceiling Act

1353. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to rescind the Urban Land Ceiling Act presently inforce;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have assessed its implication; and

(d) whether a new legislation is to be enacted in its place and if not, how the purposes of the Act to be repealed will be sought to be safeguarded?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. The Government has decided to repeal the Urban Land Ceiling Act keeping in view its poor performance and failure in achieving its objectives. Out of 2,20,675 ha. of estimeted excess vacant land, 50,046 ha. of vacant land vested in the State Governments. Only 19,020 ha. of vacant land has been paysically acquired by the State Governments.

(c) Initially the Act will be repealed in Union Territories and the States of Punjab and Haryana whose Legislatures have passed a Resolution empowering the Parliament to repeal the Act. In the remaining eleven States, where the Act is in force, the Principal Act shall continue to be inforce till the Repealing Act is adopted by the Legislative of these States. Repeal of the Act will facilitate the availability and affordability of urban land by facilitating assembly and addition to the urban land stock. It will also help in solving the shelter problem, as envisaged in the National Agenda for Governance.

(d) Since land is a State subject, the States where the Act is repealed Legislature of those States which decide to adopt the Repealing Act will be free to frame their own Legislation Keeping in view their requirements.

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi and related papers.

II. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Coir Board, Kochi and related papers.

III. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi and related papers.

IV. Memoranda of Understanding (1998-99) between the Govt. of India and Hindustan Cables Ltd. and Andrew yule and Company Ltd.

V. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the various tool Rooms and related papers.

VI. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Central Pulp and Papers Research Institute, Saharanpur (U.P.) and related papers.

VII. Notifications of the Ministry of Industry.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): lay on the Table: a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

I. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Goverment accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 401/98]

II. (a) Forty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.